

U.S. Mission South Africa (including U.S. Embassy Pretoria and Consulates General in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg)

**Warden Message
August 6, 2010**

The U.S. Mission would like to alert U.S. citizens in South Africa to the possibility of widespread protest marches and disruptions in public services on Tuesday, August 10.

COSATU, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, has called for a national strike of South African government employees over wages and conditions. COSATU and the government are continuing negotiations in hopes of reaching an agreement. If an agreement is not reached by early Tuesday, August 10, employees from many offices, to include the law enforcement community (police, immigration and customs officers), national health care sector, teachers and other government workers are expected to go out on strike. While the law bars some in “essential services” from striking, there is no agreement on who is included in this category, and even workers barred from striking might engage in “sick-outs” or “go-slows.” U.S. citizens in South Africa should expect disruptions to many government services. The following locations are listed as areas of protest which U.S. citizens should avoid:

Strike Program of Action:

- *Cape Town:* Marchers will assemble at Kaizersgracht Street at 10:00 am and march to Parliament at 3:00 pm.
- *Tshwane (Pretoria):* Marchers will assemble at Schubart Park at 8:00 am, proceed to the Union Buildings at 11:00 am, and then back on Vermeulen to Schubart Park.
- *Mafikengt:* Marchers will assemble at Montshioa Stadium at 10:00 am and march to the Provincial Legislature.
- Picketing at *various government departments and offices* will be taking place on August 10 in all major cities across the country.

Demonstrations and marches are not spectator events. If you come upon any demonstration while traveling, alter your route and avoid driving or walking near the demonstration. Demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence.

As the Department of State continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its consular information program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

All U.S. citizens in South Africa are urged to register either online at

<https://travelregistration.state.gov> or by phone or in person directly with the U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg, Cape Town, or Durban. Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within South Africa and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency. Please note the following contact information:

U.S. Embassy to the Republic of South Africa

877 Pretorius Street

Arcadia, Pretoria

Tel: 012-431-4000 (outside South Africa: +27-12-431-4000)

After-hours emergencies: 012-431-4000

<http://usembassy.state.gov/pretoria/>.

U.S. Consulate General, Johannesburg

(Covering Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West, and Free State provinces)

1 Sandton Drive (cnr. of Rivonia)

Sandhurst, Johannesburg

Tel: 011-290-3000 (outside South Africa: +27-11-290-3000)

After-hours emergencies: 079-111-1684 (outside South Africa: +27-79-111-1684).

U.S. Consulate General, Cape Town

(Covering Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape provinces)

2 Reddam Avenue

Westlake, Cape Town

Tel: 021-702-7300 (outside South Africa: +27 702-7300)

After-hours emergencies: 021-702-7300 (outside South Africa: +27-21-702-7300)

U.S. Consulate General, Durban

(Covering KwaZulu-Natal Province)

Old Mutual Building, 31st floor

303 West Street

Tel: 031-305-7600 (+27-31-305-7600)

After hours emergencies: 079-111-1445 (outside South Africa: +27-79-111-1445).